

December 2009

PROPOSED CREATION OF JOINT RULE 604

1 **SECTION 1.** Joint Rule 604 is created as follows:

2 **Publication of legislative documents.** The Legislative Council shall arrange for the
3 publication of legislative documents in accordance with constitutional and statutory
4 requirements and the rules of the Senate and House and the Joint Rules. As published by the
5 Legislative Council, the legislative documents, whether in electronic or print format, are the
6 correct copies, deemed to be officially published.

NOTE: This proposed rule is in response to a question over whether the web version of bills, resolutions, and journals is official, and whether a change could be made to delete a portion of the journals on the web, while leaving the printed version complete.

The Legislative Council provides all documents to the contract printers and publishes those documents on the legislative branch website. This proposed rules change would eliminate the ambiguity over whether a printed bill, printed resolution, or printed journal is "official" while an electronic version of that bill, resolution, or journal is not "official."

Constitutional and statutory provisions include:

- Constitution of North Dakota, Article IV, Section 13: "Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings"
- North Dakota Century Code Section 46-03-05: "The printing or reproduction of legislative bills, resolutions, and journals must be in accordance with the rules of the senate and house of representatives"
- North Dakota Century Code Section 46-03-11: "[T]he legislative council shall ... supervise the publication of the session laws and [Century Code]"
- North Dakota Century Code Section 46-03-11.2: "The Legislative Council may establish specification for publication of [the Century Code]"
- North Dakota Century Code Section 46-03-19: "All laws, journals, and documents printed and published by any contractor under this title, and duly certified ... are deemed officially to be printed and published, and full faith and credit must be given to them as such."